

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
OF
LOCAL NEWS AND HOME READING.
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TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT INSERTION, APPLY AS ABOVE.

We publish elsewhere a notice of a public meeting of the Village Improvement Association, to be held in Upper Library Hall, on Friday evening of next week. All of our citizens are invited to attend, whether they have joined the Association or not. A report will be made by Dr. Davis, the president, upon what has been accomplished during the past year, and the matter of sidewalks, drainage at Liberty Street, and other objects of interest, will be discussed.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS REVENUE.

THE plan proposed by ex-Secretary Blaine for the distribution of the surplus revenue of the United States was discussed by the papers for a few days, and then was abruptly dropped by most of the New York papers.

It is, briefly, to apportion so much of the internal revenue as arises from the manufacture and sale of liquor among the several States according to their relative population. Much of the public debt is now funded for a long term of years in such a way that it cannot be paid until maturity. The present income of the United States, from all sources, is nearly \$200,000,000 per annum more than the amount required for all public purposes, and so soon as bonds subject to redemption have all been paid off, there will be no method of using this enormous sum of money which will not seem wasteful and extravagant. Of course free traders will say that the thing to do is to reduce the tariff, and there will then be a most excellent reason for asking such reductions; but this plan of diminishing the revenue of the country will be strenuously resisted by the Protectionists, who so far have controlled the policy of the United States on this subject.

The only other course will be to take off or greatly reduce the tax upon whiskey and tobacco—which amounts on whiskey alone to nearly \$90,000,000 per annum.

This sum Mr. Blaine proposes to divide among the States—and the share of New Jersey would amount to over \$2,500,000.

In this State we had no direct tax in 1883 for State purposes, and if economy be practiced at Trenton next winter, no State tax will be needed for 1884. Our county tax is, however, very high in Essex, and in most of the other counties as well, and when we consider that much the largest part of the sum raised for county purposes is used to maintain our criminal courts, our jails, our reform schools, our penitentiary, our insane asylum and other public institutions of like character, and also that the sale and consumption of liquor is the direct agency which fills these prisons and asylums, we think all good citizens will unite in the opinion that so long as any tax is needed ruin should not go free.

NEWS.

THE CITIZEN prints each week, at the head of its editorial page, the following notice: "While it is the full intention of the editor to allow the largest liberty to contributors, it must be distinctly understood that we do not thereby endorse their opinions, or are in any sense responsible for them." We reprint this notice here because we doubt if more than a small minority of our readers have ever taken the trouble to read our "platform." We are aware that few people read prefaces or introductions, and we do not blame them, for as a rule they are abominably dry and stupid, and we would consider it a special favor if our friends and enemies would take the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the information contained in the third, fourth and fifth notes at the top of the first column of this page. By so doing they will find an explanation of many of our ways, which now seem to some very strange.

In this article we wish to speak on the subject of the fourth note, which we have quoted above. If THE CITIZEN is to be worth anything to the inhabitants of Bloomfield and surrounding towns, it must contain the local news. The failure to do this was the rock upon which all our predecessors struck, to their own

great damage. People in this vicinity are deluged with daily, weekly and monthly papers and magazines, which treat of every earthly and heavenly topic known to mankind, except the local news of our neighborhood. It would be worse than folly for us to enter into competition with such a flood. We would be swallowed up, and nothing be left to show we had ever existed. We venture to say that few would care to dispute so self-evident a proposition. But having left this common ground of agreement, opinions are as various in their direction as the points of the compass.

We believe that nine readers out of ten turn their eyes first of all to the personal items, and that many would feel that they had their money's worth if the paper contain nothing else. Notwithstanding this, scarcely a week goes by that we do not receive a certain amount of sarcastic criticism on the selection of these same items. From time to time we receive most plaintive requests not to "mention my name in the paper." And again, "What is the use of publishing such an item? who knows Blank or cares whether he is in town or out of it?" Others think we have no business to publish any one's private affairs, and still others that discussions of one's public affairs is out of place and stirs up bad blood. Now, if we throw out of our columns enough to satisfy all these variously minded critics, pray what would there be left? The over-modest and retiring should remember that they have friends in and out of town who take an unselfish interest in even their unimportant doings, the interest being in the person, not in the action. How very unimportant is the information contained in an ordinary letter of friendship, and yet who has not experienced the delight which the perusal of these trifles affords? Then it must be remembered that if we chronicled the doings of only those known to every one of our six or seven thousand readers, we should be limited to say a score of persons. Further, what is common report among a considerable number of people cannot be considered private, and what is public cannot be altered in kind, though it may be in degree, by our printing it.

Our news, personal and otherwise, is gathered by several persons, and we must depend upon them for it. It would be a sheer impossibility for the editors to acquaint themselves with all that is going on over the hills of territory which must be covered. The best we can do is to dictate in a measure the tone of communications, and use ordinary care to verify the accuracy of the report. We cannot succeed in perfectly satisfying the taste of our exceedingly diversified constituency in the selection of news. If Bloomfield were a great city we might write for one single class, or if it were a country town one class would be so predominant that having satisfied that one we could afford to neglect the rest. But, unfortunately for us, we must seek to please many kinds of people, with tastes as many and various as the colors of Joseph's coat. Said coat was evidently a thing of beauty in the eyes of Joseph and his family, but it would have given great offence to any one with a decided predilection for a single color.

As regards the quality of our news, we believe it to be far above the average. We shall continue to publish what occurs (frequently without note or comment), even when we do not approve of its moral character. It is often as necessary to let the evil doings of men come to light as it is to let the good be known. The New York Times is taken by many gentlemen for their families, while they themselves read the Herald and the Telegram. A recent issue of the Times contained the following headings on the first page: "Distributing the Spoils," "War Fever in China," "Irish Crimes in Politics," "The Pecosset Fanatic," "Failures in Business," "In the Hands of a Mob," "A Clergyman in Disgrace," "Murder of E. F. Johnson," "A Young Wife Missing," "Suicide Through Poverty," "The Smuggling Novice," "The Nut Murder Trial," "Confessing all His Crimes," "Crops in Tennessee," "Wage Earners," "South Sea Annexations." These topics take up most of the page not devoted to politics. We merely offer this selection as a standard of comparison.

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LEGAL NOTICE.

ESSEX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT—Between Mary A. Cuff, Compt. and Bridget Broderick et al.

It appearing to the court that Thomas Broderick, the mortgagor in the bill of complaint in this cause mentioned is dead, and that Hannah Cusick and George Saunders are the only persons named to said Thomas Broderick of whom the complainant has been able to get any information, and that his other heirs or devisees, if any he have, are wholly unknown.

It is, on this sixteenth day of June, eighteen hundred and eighty-three, on motion of Cusick and Howell, of counsel with the complainant, ordered that the unknown owners of all that certain tract of land of which said Thomas Broderick, late of the Township of Bloomfield, in the County of Essex, and State of New Jersey, died seized, situate lying and being on the west side of Walnut Street in the said Township of Bloomfield, bounded on the north by land of William Broderick, on the east by Walnut Street, on the south by lands of Richard Owens, and on the west by lands of Frank Moran, do appear, answer or demur to the complainant's bill on or before the seventeenth day of December next, or that all certain thereof, such decrees made against them as the court shall think equitable and just.

And it is further ordered that this order shall within ten days of the expiration of the time herein limited for pleading, answering or demurring, and that within the same time a copy thereof be sent by mail to the post office at Newark, New Jersey, to George Saunders, directed to their post office address, if the same can be ascertained.

DAVID A. DEWEY, Judge.

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